GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:428
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2001
NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY
JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some State Governments have announced their own population policy which violates the spirit of the National Population Policy 2000;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set targets to control the population of the country, during the ensuring years under this policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken to achieve the target?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.428 dated 22nd August, 2001.

(a)&(b): The State Population Policies have been adopted by Andhra Pradesh (1997), Rajasthan (December, 1999), Madhya Pradesh (January, 2000) and Uttar Pradesh (July, 2000). The National Population Policy (NPP), 2000 adopted by the Government of India in February, 2000 affirms the commitment of government towards voluntary and informed choice and consent of citizens while availing of reproductive health care services, and continuation of the target free approach in administering family planning services. The State Population Policies follow the general spirit of NPP, 2000. All the State Governments have been advised to maintain this conceptual framework while preparing their policies or strategies on population issues.

(c) & (d): The immediate objective of the NPP 2000 is to address the unmet needs for contraception, health care infrastructure, and health personnel, and to provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care. The medium-term objective is to bring the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to replacement levels by 2010, through vigorous implementation of the inter-sectoral operational strategies. The long-term objective is to achieve a stable population by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development, and environmental protection.

The National Population Policy, 2000 enumerates certain National Socio-Demographic Goals for 2010 which are listed below:-

1) Address the unmet needs for basic reproductive and child health services, supplies and infrastructure.
2) Make school education up to age 14 free and compulsory, and reduce drop outs at primary and secondary school levels to below 20 percent for both boys and girls.
3) Reduce infant mortality rate to below 30 per 1000 live births.
4) Reduce maternal mortality rate to below 100 per 100,000 live births.
5) Achieve universal immunization of children against all vaccine preventable diseases.
6) Promote delayed marriage for girls, not earlier than age 18 and preferably after 20 years of age.
7) Achieve 80 percent institutional deliveries and 100 percent deliveries by trained persons.
8) Achieve universal access to information/counseling, and services for fertility regulation and contraception with a wide basket of choices.
9) Achieve 100 per cent registration of births, deaths, marriage and pregnancy.
10) Contain the spread of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and promote greater integration between the management of reproductive tract infection (RTI) and sexually transmitted infractions (STI) and the National AIDS Control Organisation.
11) Prevent and control communicable diseases.
12) Integrate Indian System of Medicines (ISM) in the provision of reproductive and child health services, and in reaching out to households.
13) Promote vigorously the small family norm to achieve replacement levels of total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.1.

14) Bring about convergence in implementation of related social sector programs so that family welfare becomes a people centred program.

To achieve these national socio-demographic goals, the National Population Policy, 2000 enumerates 12 strategic themes. These are:-

Strategic Themes:

1) Decentralized planning and program implementation.
2) Convergence of service delivery at village levels.
3) Empowering women for improved health and nutrition.
4) Child Survival and Child Health.
5) Meeting the unmet needs for family welfare services.
6) Under-served population groups:

Urban slums;

Tribal communities, hill area population and displaced and migrant populations;

Adolescents;

Increased participation of men in planned parenthood.

7) Diverse health care provides.
8) Collaboration with and commitments from non-government organizations and the private sector.
9) Mainstream Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.
10) Contraceptive technology and research on reproductive and child health.
11) Providing for the Older Population.
12) Information, Education and Communication.

A detailed Action Plan for implementation of each of these strategies has been prepared.

Some of the important initiatives taken in this regard since adoption of NPP 2000 are as under:-

1. Maternal Health

- Promoting 24 hour delivery service at Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs)
- Contractual appointment of additional ANMs
- Contractual appointment of Staff Nurses and Laboratory Technicians
- Providing referral transport to indigent families for obstetrics emergencies
- Training of traditional birth attendants (dais)
- Providing safe motherhood consultant in PHCs, CHCs and sub-district hospitals
- Providing private anesthetists for attending to emergency obstetric cases at First Referral Units (FRUs)
- Integrated financial envelop for providing flexibility to better performing states to enable them to design package of interventions to address problems of maternal health care
- Reproductive and Child Health Camps for improving access of services of specialists like gynecologists and pediatricians
- Development of cadre of nurse midwives in public and private sector
- Training programme for doctors for providing anaesthesia
- In-service training of para-medical staff

2. Child Health

- Immunisation strengthening activities
- Operationalisation of district new born care
- Home based neo-natal care
- RCH outreach services for remote and comparatively weaker districts and urban slums
- Border district cluster strategy
- Integrated management of child illness
- Introduction of Hepatitis-B Vaccine to infants along with primary doses of DPT vaccine
- Development of a cadre of community based mid-wives
- Setting up of adolescent health clinics
- Eradication of polio by 2002

3. Contraception

- Increased choice of contraceptives
- Development of emergency contraceptives
- Community based social marketing of contraceptives
- Ensuring quality care services

4. Publicity and advocacy

- Revised strategy for information education and communication
- Media advocacy for effective participation by all stakeholders in implementation of National Population Policy

5. Involvement of Non Government Organizations

- Enhancing public private partnership
- Involvement of voluntary, non government and corporate sector

6. Strengthening Primary Health Care Services

- Providing additional funds for strengthening sub-centres through Prime Minister Gramoday Yojana (PMGY)
- Providing delivery kits and essential drugs
- Revising norms of rent and contingent expenditure

7. Integration of Indian System of Medicine (ISM&H)
- Encouragement of raising of vanaspati van
- Improving awareness and availability of ISM remedies
- Undertaking ISM related research schemes